The Southwark Addreſs

Preſented by ſeveral Inhabitants of Note,

In the Name of themſelves and their Loyal Fellow-Burghers

TO THEIR

BURGESSES,

On *Friday March* 18.

At their ſetting forth towards OXFORD.

To the Right Worſhipful Sir RICHARD HOW, Kt. *and* PETER RICH, Eſq; *Burgeſſes Elected to ſerve for the Borough of* Southwark *in the Parliament to be holden at* Oxford, *March* 21. 1680.

GENTLEMEN,

OUr [illegible] Elections of you to be our Repreſentatives in Parliament reſulted from the large Experience we had before of your Loyalty, Prudence, Fidelity and Fitneſs in every reſpect for ſo great a Truſt, which we acknowledg you have hitherto managed ſo well, that doubtleſs you had been as unanimouſly as you have been fairly Choſen again, if ſome Strangers had not practiſed upon the credulity of ſome of our Neighbours.

This Addreſs therefore is not occaſioned by the leaſt Apprehenſion we have of any Neceſſity of our giving you Directions for the diſcharge of the Truſt which we and the Conſtitution of the Government have repoſed in you. But ſome few bold men having obtruded upon the World ill things as the unanimous Dictates of whole Counties, Cities and Boroughs, have forced us upon this way of Declaring our minds, leſt they ſhould take occaſion from our ſilence to put us in alſo as Approvers of ſuch things.

I. We being fully convinced of a Damnable Helliſh Conſpiracy againſt the Kings Life, the eſtabliſhed Religion and Government, think it abſolutely neceſſary, that the compleat Diſcovery of it be impartially endeavoured; that ſo the Offenders, whether Papiſts or other Enemies to our Religion and Government, may be brought to condign Puniſhment.

II. We

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II. We being fully satisfied that the Government of this Kingdom, as it stands Establisht by Law, both in Church and State, is the most excellent and happy that any People in the World do at this day live under; we consequently think our selves bound in Conscience to use all lawful means for its Support.

III. The Persons and Reputations of Kings having by all Laws both Divine and Human ever been accounted sacred, we conceive that the traducing his Majesty, and endeavouring to lessen him in the hearts of his people, is not only unbecoming the Reformed but all Religion, and therefore ought to be discountenanced by severe Penalties upon Offenders in that kind.

IV. Our Lives, Liberties and Estates having ever since his Majesties happy Restauration been by him, under God, inviolably preserv'd to us, and that always (but of late more especially) at his Majesties vast charge and expence both at home and abroad, we think it highly reasonable, that, as we have formerly done, so we should still (in a Parliamentary way) help to defray the Charge, as well as enjoy the Benefit of His Majesties gracious Government and Protection.

Gentlemen,

IT is not for want of any Respect to your Persons or Character, that we decline attending you in as great Numbers as any *Life-and-fortune-men* of 'um all, but meerly because as Loyal Subjects we are careful to avoid any thing that has the least appearance of Tumult; so that we have nothing further to add, but to wish you a good Journey, and pray God to prosper you in all your Debates and Consultations tending to the Kings Honour and Safety, the preservation of the Protestant Religion, and the welfare of the Kingdom.

Which being Received and Read by the Burgesses, they replied to this effect.

Gentlemen,

YOU have spoken our sense in every particular, and we hope we shall so demean our selves as to satisfie all unbiass'd men, that our Principles are truly Loyal, that we are sincere Protestants, and hearty Lovers of our Country.

Printed for *Benj. Tooke*. 1681.

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